

OBITUARY NOTICES

Sir VICTOR NEGUS

D.SC., M.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.ED.,
F.R.C.S.I.

Sir Victor Negus, consulting surgeon to the ear, nose, and throat department of King's College Hospital, died on 15 July. He was 87.

Victor Ewings Negus was born in London on 6 February 1887 and educated at King's College School and King's College, where

he was awarded the Sambrooke exhibition in 1906. He entered King's College Hospital in 1909 and qualified with the Conjoint diploma in 1912. As a student earlier that year he had been an usher in Westminster Abbey at the funeral of Lord Lister.



After house appointments at the hospital, during which he was a dresser to Sir Watson Cheyne, he joined the R.A.M.C. and early in August 1914 went to France with the 1st General Hospital. After serving at the base he joined a regiment in the first battle of Ypres and later, after an illness, was appointed to hospital barges. In 1916 he was posted to Mesopotamia and served there with the 3rd Lahore Division until the end of the war, during which he was awarded the Mons Star and mentioned in dispatches.

In 1921 he graduated M.B., B.S., took the F.R.C.S., and was house surgeon at the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, Golden Square. He studied at Bordeaux, attended Chevalier Jackson's courses on peroral endoscopy at Philadelphia, and then became clinical assistant in St. Clair Thomson's E.N.T. department at King's. On his return from America he had advocated the use of Chevalier Jackson's methods and instruments, but in collaboration with Mr. Schranz, of the Genito-Urinary Company in London, he redesigned the laryngoscopes, bronchoscopes, and oesophagoscopes, and later these were used all over the world. Among the many instruments he helped to devise was the Negus bronchoscope, which gave both proximal and distal illumination and by incorporating a funnel shape in the proximal portion facilitated the insertion of forceps.

In 1924 he was awarded the gold medal at the M.S. examination of the University of London and that year was appointed junior surgeon in the E.N.T. department at King's, becoming surgeon in 1931 and senior surgeon in 1940. In 1946 he was appointed consulting surgeon. At the Royal College of Surgeons he was Arris and Gale lecturer in 1924, became Hunterian professor in 1925, and was awarded the John Hunter medal and triennial prize for 1925-7. He was

president of the Listerian Society from 1939 to 1941 and was awarded the Lister medal in 1954. He became a Fellow of King's College, London, in 1945, and in 1947 was co-opted a member of the council of the Royal College of Surgeons to represent otolaryngology. As a member of the court of examiners of the college he was one of the first examiners for the special fellowship in otorhinolaryngology. He was a member of numerous otolaryngologic societies at home and overseas and was elected president of the Thoracic Society for 1949-50 and of the British Association of Otorhinolaryngologists in 1951. In 1949 he was president of the International Congress of Otolaryngology in London. For 20 years until 1956 he was honorary treasurer of the Collegium Otorhino-laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum and was president at its annual meeting in London in 1954. He was knighted in 1956.

Negus contributed greatly to the advancement of surgery of the nose and throat by his researches into the comparative anatomy and physiology of the larynx and paranasal sinuses. His *Mechanism of the Larynx* was published in 1929. By his study of the larynx in animals and man he was able to prove that its prime function was to act as a valve against the entry of anything but air into the lower respiratory tract, and that the voice was a less vital byproduct of the laryngeal mechanism. The importance of this observation is shown in the tracheostomy which bypasses the useless larynx in bulbar palsy, and the cuffed tracheostomy tube which takes over the life-guard action of the laryngeal valve. Later he dealt with the function of the nose in olfaction and respiration, and his *Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of the Nose and Paranasal Sinuses* (1958) stimulated further research into the behaviour of the respiratory tract in health and disease. His clinical work on malignant disease of the larynx influenced the practice of all laryngologists and he collaborated with radiologists to rationalize the choice of treatment between surgery and radiotherapy. The fourth edition of *Diseases of the Nose and Throat*, originally by St. Clair Thomson, appeared in 1937 in association with Victor Negus, and its sixth edition was published in 1955. This was Negus's major literary contribution to clinical medicine. The *Biology of Respiration* appeared in 1965. When he left the council of the Royal College of Surgeons he was actively employed at the College as a trustee of the Hunterian Collection and became chairman of the trustees. He made a careful study of the college's possessions and in 1967 appeared his book *The Artistic Possessions at the Royal College of Surgeons of England*.

In his leisure time Sir Victor was equally energetic. He greatly enjoyed a game of tennis, which he continued to play until he was 70, after which he concentrated on golf, and this he played regularly as a winter game. He was president of the Medical

Golfing Society. For many years he played golf or tennis in the matches between staff and students at King's College Hospital, and when he retired from King's in 1952 and became director of the Ferens Institute at the Middlesex Hospital he played golf for the staff against the Middlesex students. His dexterity with the billiard cue in a game of snooker was such that he was seldom beaten by students or colleagues. One of his favourite and more energetic occupations was felling trees.

In 1929 he married Gladys Rennie, always known as Eve. They had two sons, one of whom is a doctor.—M.L.F.

G. WHYTE WATSON

M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S.ED.

Mr. G. Whyte Watson, formerly consultant surgeon to Bradford Royal Infirmary and St. Luke's Hospital, Bradford, died suddenly on 17 June. He was 65.

George Whyte Watson was born on 9 August 1908 and graduated in medicine at Edinburgh in 1931. After an appointment as house surgeon at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary he went to Bradford in 1932. He took the F.R.C.S.ED. in 1936 and was appointed consultant surgeon to St. Luke's Hospital and Bradford Royal Infirmary in 1946. He was also surgeon to Bingley Hospital and Westwood Hospital.

For 18 years he was a member of the former Leeds Regional Hospital Board and held office as chairman of its staff and establishment committee. He was examiner in surgery to the General Nursing Council. Throughout the region he had a high reputation for his surgical skill, and he was particularly known for his kindly handling of patients. Countless junior colleagues and general practitioners had good reason to be grateful for his help and advice, always readily given. He was perhaps best known for his pioneer work, in collaboration with his pathologist colleague Dr. Robert Turner, in the treatment of breast cancer after their researches in the use of chemotherapy, and he wrote a number of papers on the subject.

For some years Mr. Whyte Watson was a member of the executive committee of the Bradford Division of the B.M.A. and was a past chairman. He was also a former representative on the Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services. He took great interest in the affairs of the B.M.A. and his wise observations were always appreciated and carefully heard at meetings. He retired last year, having some time before successfully faced a serious illness, and was about to leave on a holiday when his untimely death brought a sense of loss and dismay to his many friends, by whom he will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife, son, and two daughters.—F.B.C.

D. J. CUSITER

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., M.F.C.M.

Dr. D. J. Cusiter, who was formerly a medical officer of health in the West Riding of Yorkshire, died suddenly on 27 May at Scarborough. He was 59.

Douglass James Cusiter was born at Nigg, near Aberdeen, on 21 November 1914 and graduated in medicine at Aberdeen in 1937. He was in general practice in Lancashire and Cheshire till 1939, when he volunteered for service in the R.A.M.C. He was at Dunkirk and El Alamein, in the Commando raid on Tobruk, and with the Sudanese Defence Force, returning to civilian life with the honorary rank of lieutenant-colonel. From 1949 to 1951 he was assistant divisional medical officer to Lancashire County Council and then moved to Wath-on-Deane, south Yorkshire, to become medical officer to the old West Riding's 26 Division, subsequently being also appointed to Divisions 30 and 31. Honorary secretary and treasurer of the Yorkshire branch of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, he was later its president. He was associated with the reorganization of the N.H.S., chairman of the Ambulance Working Party (Trent Region), chairman of Rotherham Joint Liaison Committee, and honorary secretary of Rotherham Maternity Liaison Committee. He had been a lecturer to health visitors at Sheffield Polytechnic and on first aid at Rotherham College of Technology. In 1964-5 he was president of Mexborough and District Rotary Club. During more than 20 years in south Yorkshire he was deeply interested in and associated with the implementation of the Clean Air Act in that area.

Since the reorganization of county boundaries this year Dr. Cusiter was area specialist in community medicine (social services) to the new Rotherham Health Authority, with additional responsibilities as acting specialist in environmental health. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

J. G. VINCENT SMITH

M.A., M.B., B.CHIR

Dr. J. G. Vincent Smith, formerly medical director of Tunbridge Wells Child Guidance Clinic, died on 7 April. He was 69.

John Garnett Vincent Smith came of a medical family. He was educated at Sherborne and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and completed his medical studies at St. George's Hospital, qualifying with the Conjoint diploma in 1931 and graduating two years later. After house appointments at St. George's Hospital and Hampstead and North-west London General Hospital he joined the medical branch of the Royal Navy, serving for 14 years and reaching the rank of surgeon commander. His health, however, broke down and he was invalided from the service. While in the Royal Navy his interest in psychiatry was first aroused by a group of offenders undergoing detention for disciplinary offences, most of whom were apparently suffering from personality disorders and thus seemed to him to call for medical rather than penal measures. When his health was restored, these and later, experience of a group of Borstal

girls, most of whom were mentally disturbed, induced him to train in child psychiatry and in due course he was appointed director of the Tunbridge Wells Child Guidance Clinic, where he worked for 20 years with conspicuous success.

For many years Vincent Smith had been the victim of Parkinsonism, which, despite current methods of treatment, had progressively worsened. A sensitive, highly perceptive, and very modest man of great charm, he was however utterly realistic and nothing of a sentimentalist. His clinical judgement was sound and balanced. He was beloved by the staff of his clinic, who spoke of him in the highest terms. Believing strongly in the value of child guidance, he lost no opportunity of explaining this to parents and all those, including professional workers, concerned with the disturbed child. He had an intense love of music and greatly enjoyed time spent at his piano. His married life was of the happiest. He is survived by his wife, son, and three daughters, for whom his passing has created a sad void tempered by gratitude for his life and work, feelings which will be shared by many outside his family.—E.W.A.

D. MCCARTHY

M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Dr. D. McCarthy, who for 38 years was a general practitioner at Liverpool, died peacefully at home on 2 July. He was 71.

Denis McCarthy, the eldest of a family of 10, was born on 10 April 1903 at Middleton, county Cork, and educated at Castlknock School, near Dublin, and University College, Cork, where he graduated in medicine in 1926. After some years at Tranmere Infirmary, Birkenhead, he served as a ship's surgeon with the Blue Funnel and Houlder lines, sailing to the Far East and South America. In 1936 he entered general practice at Liverpool, where he remained until his death.

Denis was conscientious, hard-working, and cheerful and upheld the highest tradition of medicine, being very much a family doctor. Warm-hearted, with a keen sense of humour, he never spared himself where his patients were concerned and always found time to listen to their problems. He will be sadly missed by them all. For many years he also served as school manager to St. Sebastian's School, Liverpool. In his younger days he was a rugby and tennis enthusiast and later took up golf. He was interested in the arts, and particularly in Irish history. However, his work was also his hobby and his overriding concern was for his fellow man. He is survived by his wife and five daughters.—S.McC

H. S. EYRE

M.B., B.CHIR.

Dr. H. S. Eyre, family doctor of Brewwood in Staffordshire, died suddenly of coronary thrombosis at his home on 9 July. He was 51.

Hermon Sykes Eyre was born on 18 May 1923 and educated at Wakefield Grammar School and Queens' College, Cambridge. He went to St. Thomas's Hospital medical school in 1943 and qualified with the Con-

joint diploma in 1946, taking the Cambridge degree a few months later. After appointments as casualty officer and then as senior surgical casualty officer at his teaching hospital he went into the R.A.M.C. He served for a time in Gibraltar just after the end of the second world war, and attained the rank of captain. He was doubtful of the area of medicine in which he wished to practise, but at that time had a penchant for surgery. This took him to Harrogate and District General Hospital as a surgical house officer, but there he had a change of heart and decided that he would like to be a general practitioner. He was delighted when he found a place at Brewwood, where he practised for the last 23 years with quiet distinction and a genuine concern for all those who sought his help within and outside the confines of strictly defined medicine.

He worked unflaggingly and without ostentation. At Cambridge he had heard the then regius professor of physic, Professor J. A. Ryle, say in his inaugural address that "general practice still claims the cream of the medical profession." By this Ryle meant that good doctors had character, kindness, breadth of vision, compassion, and an understanding of and sympathy with the vagaries of mankind. These qualities were exemplified in Hermon Eyre, who not only showed them to the full but also had the technical skills and self-criticism to make him a scientific doctor too. A combination such as this was bound to make him successful in the best sense, and this it did, though now it can be seen that the cost to himself was very high. There are no suitable epitaphs for those whose work is well and truly done, but if one should be found it will fit Hermon Eyre.

He is survived by his wife and grown-up son and daughter. His wife and daughter are both Nightingales.—P.R.

W. G. MASEFIELD

C.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M.

W.McC. writes: Gordon Masefield was one of the best committee men I have ever known, either in the chair or as an ordinary member (obituary, 13 July, p. 120). He was a man of few words and never obtruded himself, so it was all the more impressive to see members, especially lay members, turn naturally to him for guidance. A rock-like integrity and lifetime of experience were all the more useful in that his advice was always given so simply and succinctly. The change from the old hierarchical system in mental hospitals to the new scheme of things was not an easy one, but Masefield did more than was generally appreciated to lessen difficulties and bridge chasm, and incidentally in helping medical superintendents to combine the then equivocal and often seemingly thankless task of being still regarded by many as head of the place but without authority commensurate with such responsibility. The Central Health Services Council and Regional Hospital Board work with all the travelling involved would have been enough for most people, but not for Masefield. He was also a member of hospital committees, so that when he spoke at the centre of affairs he did so with first-hand knowledge of the difficulties, problems, and perplexities at the periphery. I remember his work at Haywards Heath with gratitude.